

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Respect for Child Survivors Act. As Co-Founder and Chairman of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus, I am proud to put forward legislation that helps protect the most vulnerable in our communities. This important legislation was brought about, in part, by the failings of the FBI during its handling of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse cases. The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General found that the FBI did not properly handle or document evidence gathering with USA Gymnastics or the victims and did not notify state or local authorities of the sexual assault allegations. This bill is intended to prevent similar situations from happening with future investigations. The legislation will require the FBI to utilize multidisciplinary teams, made up of trauma-informed experts, when interviewing a victim who reports child abuse or trafficking. The use of these teams would prevent further traumatizing victims. In addition, the bill's information sharing and case review provisions would ensure accountability so cases are not mishandled in the future.

This legislation also includes another bill I am proud to lead, the Victims of Child Abuse Act (VOCAA) Reauthorization Act of 2021. This legislation will reauthorize funding for Children's Advocacy Centers through the Victims of Child Abuse Act through 2028. Victims and survivors of child abuse must have access to the resources and care provided by Children's Advocacy Centers to heal from their trauma. This legislation will put the authorized level in line with the increased Fiscal Year 2023 funding level set by appropriators. I worked to reauthorize VOCAA in both 2013 and 2018 and will continue to ensure that VOCAA is reauthorized and fully funded.

I want to thank the bipartisan group of legislators that have helped champion this legislation. In the House, Representatives TONY GONZALES and BRIAN FITZPATRICK are the Republican Leads on the Respect for Child Survivors Act and Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act, respectively. I also would like to thank Senators COONS, CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, and GRAHAM, who have championed this through the Senate. Finally, thank you to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the respective committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate for helping to get these important pieces of legislation to the floor.

The Respect for Child Survivors Act is endorsed by Rape Abuse & Incest National Network, the National District Attorneys Association, Army of Survivors, the National Children's Alliance, Keep Kids Safe, Together for Girls, Darkness to Light, the Monique Bun Foundation for Children, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), and the Brave Movement. The VOCAA Reauthorization Act is endorsed by National Children's Alliance, National Children's Advocacy Center, Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Fraternal Order of Police, National District Attorneys Association, National Association of Police Organizations, Major County Sheriffs' Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD. I thank these groups for their support of these bills and for their advocacy.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 4926—the Respect for Child Survivors Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4926.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 450) to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 450

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The brutal lynching of Emmett Till and the subsequent bravery and boldness of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, became a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

(2) On August 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till was kidnapped, beaten, and shot in Money, Mississippi, where he had traveled from Chicago to stay with his great uncle, Moses Wright.

(3) The corpse of Emmett Till was discovered 3 days later in the Tallahatchie River and his murderers were acquitted despite Moses Wright providing an eyewitness testimony that the men on trial kidnapped Emmett Till.

(4) Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, demonstrated her love for her son and her courage and strength in suffering in the days that followed as she brought the body of Emmett Till back to Chicago for burial and demanded an open casket funeral, which drew more than 50,000 attendees.

(5) Mamie Till-Mobley further allowed a photograph to be taken of Emmett Till in his casket, which was shown throughout the world.

(6) The original casket of Emmett Till stands on display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture as an enduring reminder of the racial violence that is a part of the history of the United States that the people of the United States must confront.

(7) The heroic actions of Mamie Till-Mobley in the midst of evil, injustice, and grief became a catalyst for the civil rights movement and continued in the years to come as she worked for justice and honored the legacy of Emmett Till.

(8) Mamie Till-Mobley went on to create the Emmett Till Players, which was a significant national cultural contribution as teenagers traveled throughout the country

presenting Martin Luther King Jr. speeches in the name of Emmett Till.

(9) Mamie Till-Mobley also served as chair and co-founder of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, which had the dual mission of reopening the murder of Emmett Till for a re-investigation and a passage into law of Federal legislation to ensure that other racially motivated murders during the civil rights era were investigated and, when possible, prosecuted.

(10) The efforts of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign led to the successful joint investigation by the State of Mississippi, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Justice in 2004, the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-344; 122 Stat. 3934), signed into law by President George W. Bush, and the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-325; 130 Stat. 1965), signed into law by President Barack Obama.

(11) The people of the United States honor the legacy of Emmett Till and the incredible suffering and equally incredible courage, resilience, and efforts of Mamie Till-Mobley that led to the civil rights movement that began in the 1950s.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscriptions of the name of, “Emmett Till” and “Mamie Till-Mobley”.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, where it shall be displayed as appropriate.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Museum of African American History and Culture should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations and events associated with Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 450, the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act, which is a companion to a House bill sponsored by Representative RUSH.

This bill will provide for a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of two very important figures in our American history and heroes of the civil rights movement, Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

It was not long ago that Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American child from Chicago, visited his family in Money, Mississippi. Shortly after his arrival, he was kidnapped, beaten, mutilated, and shot in the head. His murderers then sunk his body in a river with a cotton gin fan tied around his neck with barbed wire.

Mamie Till-Mobley, Emmett Till's mother, expressed both love and heroism in the face of the unthinkable, ensuring that her son's body was brought home to Chicago and insisting that his funeral be open casket.

She ensured that Emmett was dressed in his Sunday best and that nothing else about his body was touched, so that people could see the violence that had been perpetrated upon him and bear witness to the horrors of lynching.

Mamie issued an open invitation to her young son's funeral. 50,000 people heeded the call and were moved by the devastating effects that racism, prejudice, and hate had on Emmett's body and very life.

She allowed Jet Magazine to photograph Emmett in his casket, ensuring that all of America would have an image of her son to galvanize a nation against the horrors of lynching and illuminate the need for the civil rights of all.

Representative RUSH was 8 years old when Till was lynched and murdered; and he has said that one of the sharpest memories of his childhood is the image of Mamie Till-Mobley looking at her son's body in Jet Magazine.

Mamie Till-Mobley's bravery was a fomenting force for the civil rights

movement, paving the way for subsequent advocacy to increase racial equality, including the Montgomery boycott. While we still have a long way to go to ensure racial equity, we owe a great deal of progress to the bravery and sacrifice of Mamie Till-Mobley and the way that she honored her son's life.

Representative RUSH represents Illinois' First District, where Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley resided. While Representative RUSH has been in office, their house has become a national landmark.

Representative RUSH is also the sponsor of H.R. 55, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, which was signed into law earlier this year, and makes lynching a Federal hate crime, punishable by up to 30 years in prison. Due to the absence of this and other Federal and legal protections, Emmett Till's murderers served no time in prison for their crimes.

I am so appreciative of Representative RUSH's dedication to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and his work to ensure that lynching is recognized as a Federal crime, and that the Tills are honored for their bravery and legacy.

I am pleased to be able to vote "yes" for this bill before Representative RUSH's retirement at the end of this term, and I congratulate him on this accomplishment. I urge my colleagues to support this very important Congressional Gold Medal bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 450, a bill that will award, long overdue, the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley. It is a pleasure to be on the House floor with Chair WATERS to speak in favor of this bill and its strong bipartisan support.

On August 28, 1955, a 14-year-old African-American boy was brutally murdered while visiting family in Money, Mississippi, based on nothing more than an accusation, an accusation that he had flirted with a White woman 4 days earlier. This boy's name was Emmett Till.

The way Emmett was murdered by the woman's husband and brother are far too gruesome to describe here or in the findings of this bill, but they left a scar on America's history in a way that we will never forget.

When Till's body was found, it was so badly disfigured it was nearly unrecognizable, even to Emmett's own family. The only clue they had to identify him was an initialed signet ring.

As it happened far too often during this period in our history, authorities tried to expedite his burial to try to make the incident go away. Yet, Emmett's mother, as so eloquently described by Chair WATERS, Mamie Bradley insisted that her son's body be sent home to Chicago where he could be properly memorialized.

She knew that it was only through her son's mutilated body that the

world could truly understand the evil that was perpetrated on her son. I cannot begin to imagine how difficult this decision was for her at that time and with those feelings.

But it was this decision that prompted Jet Magazine to publish the photo of Emmett; and it was this decision that ultimately led mainstream media to shine a light on the story.

I wish I could say that those who murdered Emmett Till were brought to justice but, sadly, and most unjustly, less than 2 weeks after Emmett's body was buried, an all-White jury deliberated for less than an hour and issued a not guilty verdict; this, despite the fact that there was ample eyewitness evidence to the contrary.

Despite a lack of immediate justice for this brutal murder, Emmett's mother, Mamie, never stopped drawing attention to her son's murder. As demonstrated by all of us here today, the Till trial brought to light the brutality of the Jim Crow South.

Mr. Speaker, S. 450 will honor Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley for the injustice that they suffered, and the bravery shown in the aftermath of this terrible incident in American history.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 450, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for bringing this bill to the floor and giving me the opportunity to comment on it.

I rise in strong support. I grew up across the river from Mississippi in the State of Arkansas. I happened to be the same age as Emmett Till when he was murdered; I was 14, he was 14.

Then I had the opportunity to work with his mother, Ms. Mamie Till-Mobley, who lived in Chicago. The church, Roberts Temple, is now in my district, where his funeral was held, so I have always felt close to the situation. I have always felt a part of it.

Ms. Mobley, Emmett Till's mother, was a premier activist in Chicago. She lived in BOBBY's district, Congressman RUSH's district, but she was all over the city, all over the country, all over the world, hoping to bring attention to the situation.

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Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 450. I thank my friend, Mr. DAVIS of Parkdale, Arkansas, for his testimony. Parkdale is a great city in our southeast corner of Arkansas. I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her passionate support of this bill. This is a bill that has the universal support of people on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 450, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

I appreciate Representative RUSH's dedication to ensuring that Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley's legacy and bravery are remembered and honored with this bill.

This Congressional Gold Medal bill will allow the American people to pay tribute to these brave individuals who catalyzed the civil rights movement and stood up against racial injustice in the face of immense hardship and without whom we would not be where we are today as a country that continues to work toward racial equality for all.

I thank Representative RUSH for championing this important bill.

I would add that, yes, I remember when it took place. I was 16 years old at the time. The parents and leaders of our community made sure that all the children in our communities, in our schools, and in our churches knew what had happened. They made sure that we understood what was going on in this country at that time.

We are never to forget what happened to Emmett Till and what happened to so many others when lynching was a way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Mr. RUSH has championed this important bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor to lives and legacies of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley. Their story is of major significance in the African American community and speaks to a turning point in American history. Today, the House passed the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021, which would award Emmett and Ms. Till-Mobley a Congressional Gold Medal.

I would like to start off by thanking Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS, Leader STENY HOYER, and Speaker NANCY PELOSI for their assistance in shepherding this bill through the House. With their help, we have gotten 290 House cosponsors for the bill, including every House Democrat and 67 House Republicans. I would also like to acknowledge Rep. DON BACON from the great state of Nebraska for serving as the Republican co-lead on this bill. I would also like to thank Senators RICHARD BURR of North Carolina and CORY BOOKER of New Jersey for serving as the Senate leads on the bill.

This year, I sought to bring light to the injustice of Emmett Till's lynching, through this and the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, which President Biden signed into law earlier this year. For African Americans of my generation, his brutal torture and murder was a painful, but very real reminder of the true horrors of white supremacy.

News of his death shaped my understanding of racism at a very early age. When the photo from Emmett Till's funeral ran in Jet Magazine, I will never forget how my mother gathered us around the coffee table and told us 'That's why I brought my boys out of the South.'

Emmett Till's lynching sent shockwaves through my community and deeply affected me and my family.

His gruesome murder—as well as Mamie Till-Mobley's courageous decision to have Jet publish a photo of his body and to hold an open-casket funeral for her son so people could see his mutilated body—exposed the brutal truth of racism. This caused such outrage, not only in the United States but abroad, and sparked the Civil Rights Movement.

It is no coincidence that the March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his iconic "I have a Dream" speech, was held on the eighth anniversary of Emmett's death. Emmett's lynching was a wake-up call for Black America and others. We could not stay quiet any longer.

I feel a heavy responsibility to continue telling Emmett and Ms. Till-Mobley's story. Not only did Emmett's death resonate deeply with me others of my generation, but he grew up on the South Side of Chicago, in what is now the Congressional District that I represent. The work that Ms. Till-Mobley started on racial justice continues today, and the same struggle to protect Black lives, Hispanic lives, LGBTQ lives, immigrants lives, Jewish lives, and others. We must continue telling their story for future generations to learn from.

Emmett's brutal murder catalyzed the Civil Rights Movement and a generation of civil rights activists. It had a ripple effect that can still be felt today, and began a worldwide movement to reckon with freedom, justice, and equality all around the world. His name will forever be spoken in the same breath as Dr. King's, Medgar Evers', Fred Hampton, Mark Clark's, and George Floyd's just to name a few.

But Mr. Speaker, I am left thinking of Emmett, who would have been 81 years old if he were still alive today. He should be here today, reflecting on a life well lived, with still more yet to go. It is an unthinkable tragedy to lose a child in such a brutal, heinous way. This Nation allowed the horrors of white supremacy to fester for far too long, and that is what murdered Emmett Till. It is the least this Congress can do, 67 years after his death, to honor him and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, with the highest award Congress can bestow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 450.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VANESSA GUILLEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4411) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5302 Galveston Road in Houston, Texas, as the "Vanessa Guillen Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4411

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. VANESSA GUILLEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5302 Galveston Road in Houston, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Vanessa Guillen Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Vanessa Guillen Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), the sponsor of the House companion bill.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for all the support she has given me in getting this bill to the floor. It looks like we are almost there.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my strong support for S. 4411, the Vanessa Guillen postal facility renaming bill.

I thank my Senate counterparts for their work on this important legislation and all of my colleagues in the Texas delegation for cosponsoring this legislation.

I am proud to champion and sponsor this bill in the House, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support its swift passage today.

Vanessa was born to the parents of immigrants and grew up in my district in Houston. She was a standout athlete in high school, and from a young age, she knew she wanted to serve her country in the U.S. Army. She would tell people: I am going to join the Army.

She participated in the ROTC in her high school and knew that Army life was for her. She enlisted right after high school graduation and was eventually assigned to Fort Hood military base in Texas.

She was a rising star before her life was tragically cut short in April 2020 at the young age of 20 years old.

Her story has brought much-needed attention to address sexual harassment and sexual assault in the military. Her story has led to changes being implemented at Fort Hood and other military installations throughout the country and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, we can't bring Vanessa back, but we can continue her legacy by renaming the post office close to her